Inspection of Materials Relating to the
Autopsy of President John F. Kennedy
The National Archives

At approximately 2:05 P.M., October 31, 1966, in Room 6W-3 of the National Archives Building, Mr. Burke Marshall, representative of the executors of the estate of President John F. Kennedy, delivered to the custody of the Government of the United States certain materials pertaining to the autopsy of the late President. This action was pursuant to a letter from Mr. Marshall to Honorable Lawson B. Knott, Jr., Administrator of General Services, dated October 29, 1966, which constituted a deed of gift, subject to restrictions, of these and other materials from the estate of John F. Kennedy to the Government of the United States.

The materials were in a footlocker that had previously been delivered to the National Archives by representatives of Senator Robert F. Kennedy for purposes of secure storage and pursuant to an arrangement with Senator Kennedy under which material may not be opened without his consent. At the time of its delivery the footlocker was locked, no key was delivered with it, and its contents were not divulged to officials of the National Archives and Records Service. Nor, at any time previous to the opening of the footlocker, were its contents known to the undersigned or, to the best of their knowledge, to any other officer or employee of the National Archives and Records Service, the General Services Administration or the Department of Justice.

The footlocker was opened in the presence of Burke Marshall; Miss Angela Novello, secretary to Senator Robert F. Kennedy, who produced a key to the footlocker; William H. Brewster, Special Assistant to the General Counsel, General Services Administration, who opened the footlocker with the key; Harold F. Reis, Executive Assistant to the Attorney General; Robert H. Bahmer, Archivist of the United States; James B. Rhoads, Deputy Archivist of the United States; and Herman Kahn, Assistant Archivist for Presidential Libraries. Immediately thereafter, Frank M. Wozencraft, Assistant Attorney General, joined the group. Shortly after the opening of the footlocker and at approximately 2:15 P.M., Miss Novello and Messrs. Marshall and Wozencraft departed. The undersigned then removed all of the materials from the footlocker and inspected them.

Included in the material in the footlocker was a carbon copy of a letter from Senator Robert F. Kennedy to Vice Admiral George G. Burkley, dated April 22, 1965. The letter authorized the release to the Senator's custody of all the material relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy then being held by the Secret Service, and of which Admiral Burkley had

personal knowledge, and delivery of the same to Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln at the National Archives. (A copy of this letter is attached hereto as Exhibit A.) The footlocker also contained the original of a letter from Admiral Burkley to Mrs. Lincoln, dated April 26, 1965, transmitting materials relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy. These materials were itemized in a list attached to the letter. (This letter and its attachment are appended hereto as Exhibit B.)

Inspection of the footlocker disclosed that it contained items 1 through 8, inclusive, referred to in the attachment to Admiral Burkley's letter of April 26, 1965. It did not contain any of the material referred to in item 9 of that attachment. However, the footlocker did contain three large manila envelopes of material which appeared to be copies of military service records of the late President, John F. Kennedy, which had no apparent relationship to the autopsy and which were not enumerated in Exhibit B. Since these materials and item 1 are not part of the subject matter of the letter of October 29, 1966, they were removed by Mr. Kahn to be held by the National Archives pursuant to the arrangement with Senator Kennedy referred to in the second paragraph of this memorandum.

Messrs. Bahmer, Reis, Rhoads, Kahn, and Brewster examined the material enumerated in items 2 through 8, inclusive, of the attachment to Admiral Burkley's letter (Exhibit B) and concluded as a result of this examination that all of the material referred to under those items was present. At approximately 3:00 P.M. the materials enumerated in items 2 through 8 were placed in a security cabinet previously approved by Mr. Marshall.

Robert H Bahmer 11/4/66
Robert H. Bahmer

Harold F. Reis 11/4/66
Harold F. Reis

James B Rhoads 11-4-66
James B. Rhoads

Herman Kahn 11-7-66
Herman Kahn

William H. Brewster 11/7/66
William H. Brewster

Exhibit A

April 22, 1965

Dear Dr. Burkley:

This will authorize you to release to my custody all of the material of President Kennedy, of which you have personal knowledge, and now being held by the Secret Service.

I would appreciate it if you would accompany this material personally and turn it over for safekeeping to Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln at the National Archives. I am sending a copy of this letter to Mrs. Lincoln with instructions that this material is not to be released to anyone without my written permission and approval.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Kennedy

Vice Adm. George G. Burkley
Physician to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

cc/Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln

Exhibit B

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 26, 1965

Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln
National Archives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Lincoln:

In accordance with authorization dated April 22, 1965 from Senator Robert F. Kennedy, the items on the attached list relating to the autopsy of the late President John F. Kennedy are herewith transferred to the Archives for your custody, and in accordance with the instructions contained in Senator Kennedy's letter.

Yours sincerely,

George G. Burkley

George G. Burkley
Vice Admiral, MC, USN
Physician to the President

Witnesses:

Robert I. Bouck

Chester J. Pitzer

Edith E. Duncan

TRANSFERRED TO MRS. LINCOLN, NATIONAL ARCHIVES, APRIL 26, 1965

1. One broken casket handle

2. Envelopes numbered 1 to 18 containing black and white negatives of photographs taken at time of autopsy

3. 7 envelopes containing 4 x 5 negatives of autopsy material

4. 5 envelopes containing 4 x 5 exposed film containing no image

5. 1 roll of exposed film from a color camera entirely black with no image apparent

6. Envelope containing 8 X-ray negatives 14" x 17"; 6 X-ray negatives 10" x 12"; 12 black and white prints 11" x 14"; 17 black and white prints 14" x 17"; all negatives and prints pertaining to X-rays that were taken at the autopsy

7. 36 8" x 10" black and white prints - autopsy photos
   37 3 1/2" x 4 1/2" black and white prints - autopsy photos
   27 color positive transparencies 4" x 5"
   1 unexposed piece of color film

8. 27 4" x 5" color negatives of autopsy photographs
   55 8" x 10" color prints of autopsy photographs

9. 1 plastic box 9" x 6 1/2" x 1" containing paraffin blocks of tissue sections
   1 plastic box containing paraffin blocks of tissue sections plus 35 slides
   A third box containing 84 slides
   1 stainless steel container 7" in diameter x 8" containing gross material
   3 wooden boxes, each 7" x 3 1/2" x 1 1/4", containing 58 slides--blood smears taken at various times during life
   Complete autopsy protocol of President Kennedy (orig. & 7 cc's) - Original signed by Dr. Humes, pathologist
   Letter of transmittal of autopsy report (orig. & 1 cc)

   Office Memorandum from James K. Fox to SAIC Bouck Nov. 29, 1963, concerning the processing of film in the presence of Lt.(jg) V. Madonia, USN (orig. & 2 ccs)

   Orig. memo from Lt. Madonia to J. K. Fox, U. S. Secret Service, White House, Special Officer, dated Nov. 29, 1963, concerning receipt of certain films and prints and the processing thereof (Orig. & 1 cc)

RJB

Certificate of destruction of preliminary draft notes on protocol of autopsy (1 cc signed by Dr. J. J. Humes)

Orig. & 1 cc and one xerox reproduction of memo from Comdr. John H. Ebersole, M.C., U.S.N., Acting Chief of Radiology, to Roy H. Kellerman, ASAIC, U. S. Secret Service, regarding X-ray films dated 11-22-63.

Thermofax reproduction of memo from Francis X. O'Neill Jr., Agent FBI, and James W. Sibert, to Capt. J. H. Stover, Commanding Officer, USN Medical School, regarding receipt of missile, dated 11-22-63.

1cc of letter dated Dec. 5, 1963 from SAIC Bouck to Capt. J. H. Stover, Jr., MC, USN, concerning graphic film holders.

2 page memo from Captain Stover, MC, USN, Nov. 22, 1963 to Roy H. Kellerman concerning receipt of photographic material.

George G. Burkley
George G. Burkley
Vice Admiral, MC, USN
Physician to the President

Witnesses:

Robert J. Bouck
Charles J. Miller